

Agency 190

Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals**Recommendation Summary**

Dollars in Thousands

	Annual FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2003-05 Expenditure Authority	159.1		30,385	30,385
Total Maintenance Level	159.1		31,647	31,647
Difference			1,262	1,262
Percent Change from Current Biennium	0.0%		4.2%	4.2%
Performance Changes				
Middle Management Reduction	(.7)		(78)	(78)
General Inflation			(130)	(130)
Subtotal	(0.7)		(208)	(208)
Total Proposed Budget	158.4		31,439	31,439
Difference	(.7)		1,054	1,054
Percent Change from Current Biennium	(0.4)%		3.5%	3.5%
Total Proposed Budget by Activity				
Administration	.5		156	156
Hearings	87.8		18,669	18,669
Mediation	36.3		6,234	6,234
New Industrial Insurance Appeals Assessment	22.0		3,740	3,740
Review	12.5		2,066	2,066
Compensation Cost Adjustment			652	652
Middle Management Reduction	(.7)		(78)	(78)
Total Proposed Budget	158.4		31,439	31,439

PERFORMANCE LEVEL CHANGE DESCRIPTIONS**Middle Management Reduction**

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**Administration**

This activity provides the administrative functions of the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals

Hearings

The Hearings Section schedules and conducts formal hearings on all contested issues raised in an appeal. Hearings are formal legal proceedings following the civil rules applicable in the superior courts of Washington. At the conclusion of the hearings and the closing of the record, a judge will issue a written proposed decision and order containing findings of fact and conclusions of law on all contested issues. (Worker/Community Right to Know Account, Accident Account, Medical Aid Account)

Mediation

The Mediation Program focuses on assisting parties in understanding the appeal process and reaching an agreed resolution, if possible. Unrepresented appellants are given an opportunity to discuss the issues involved in their appeal in an informal setting with a judge and a representative from the other party. Judges are trained mediators who have extensive knowledge of workers' compensation and other areas of the law, as well as in the practices and procedures of the Board. These skills and specialized knowledge are used to assist the parties in exploring options for resolution of the appeal. (Accident Account, Medical Aid Account)

New Industrial Insurance Appeals Assessment

The New Appeals Section handles all aspects of the initial receipt and processing of new appeals received by the agency. Determinations are made whether to grant or deny appeals. Jurisdictional problems are identified and a jurisdictional history of the claim is developed. This history is used in mediation and hearings to establish the legal authority of the agency to hear the appeal. The section works closely with the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) in assessing whether documents are protests, which are handled by L&I, or formal appeals. (Accident Account, Medical Aid Account)

Review

If a party disagrees with the proposed decision issued by a hearing judge, the party can petition the three-member board to review the decision. In the review program, judges assist board members in determining the appropriate action to take on petitions. Judges review the petition and the entire record of proceedings, then make recommendations to the board. If the board votes to review a proposed decision, the review judge will draft the final decision and order for the board members' approval. (Accident Account, Medical Aid Account)

Compensation Cost Adjustment

This item reflects proposed compensation and benefit cost adjustments that were not allocated to individual agency activities. The agency will assign these costs to the proper activities after the budget is enacted.

Middle Management Reduction

The Governor has directed that middle management be reduced by 1,000 positions by the end of the biennium. This item is this agency's share of the statewide amount. These savings will be assigned to the appropriate activities after the budget is enacted.